GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7165
ANSWERED ON:11.05.2000
IMPORT OF FOODGRAINS
PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether large scale imports of sugar, wheat, rice and palm oil took place to crush the market price etc. during 1998-99 and 1999-2000;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry recommended the Cabinet for imposition of duty on these items; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

(SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN)

(a) :- The following quantities of sugar ,wheat, rice and palm oil were imported during 1998-99 and 1999-2000 :-

(Quantity in tonnes)

	1998-99	1999-2000 (upto Feb.2000)
Sugar	901169	1083367
Wheat	1803699	689756
Rice	6636	22904
Palm Oil	1608057	Not Available

Source :- DGCI&S Calcutta.

(b) & (c):- Government has imposed a duty of 50% on import of wheat with effect from 1.12.1999 and a duty of 60% along with countervailing duty at the rate of Rs.850/- per metric tonnes on import of sugar with effect from 9.2.2000. Further, with effect from 5.4.2000, Government has imposed the following duty on import of rice:

(i) Rice in the husk (paddy or rough) - 80%

(ii) Husked (brown) rice - 80%

(iii) Semi-milled or wholly milled rice, whether or not polished or glazed - 70%

(iv) Broken rice - 80%

The import duty from 30.12.1999 on refined oils has been raised from total 16.5% to 32%. However, the import duty on crude oil remain unchanged at 16.5%.